

~~RESTRICTED~~
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: List 51
FROM: Security Office
SUBJECT: Diaries

DATE: 7 February 1944

1. A number of instances have occurred where personal diaries kept by civilian Government employees and by military and naval personnel have compromised valuable information pertaining to the war effort.
2. All members of OSS are cautioned not to maintain any personal diary which contains information relating to OSS, its organization and functions, etc., in contravention of OSS Security regulations or which contains any information covered by U.S. Army and Navy Regulations or by the Espionage Act.
3. In this connection, the attention of all OSS members is directed to the following regulations which control the safeguarding of classified information: OSS Security Regulations, U.S. Army Regulation 380-5 and Article 113 (i) of U.S. Navy Regulations. Violation of the latter two regulations by personnel subject to such makes the offender liable to court-martial. In addition, all OSS personnel are subject to the provisions of the Espionage Act which imposes severe criminal penalties for unlawfully obtaining or permitting to be obtained information affecting national defense and for unlawfully disclosing information affecting national defense (Sec. 31, 32, Title 50 U.S. Code).
4. Diaries maintained by OSS personnel abroad as a part of their official duties are OSS documents and as such are not to be construed as being within the prohibition of this memorandum. They should of course be properly classified and transported in accordance with normal pouch and courier regulations.

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Security Officer

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APPROVED:

[Redacted Signature]

Acting Director

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